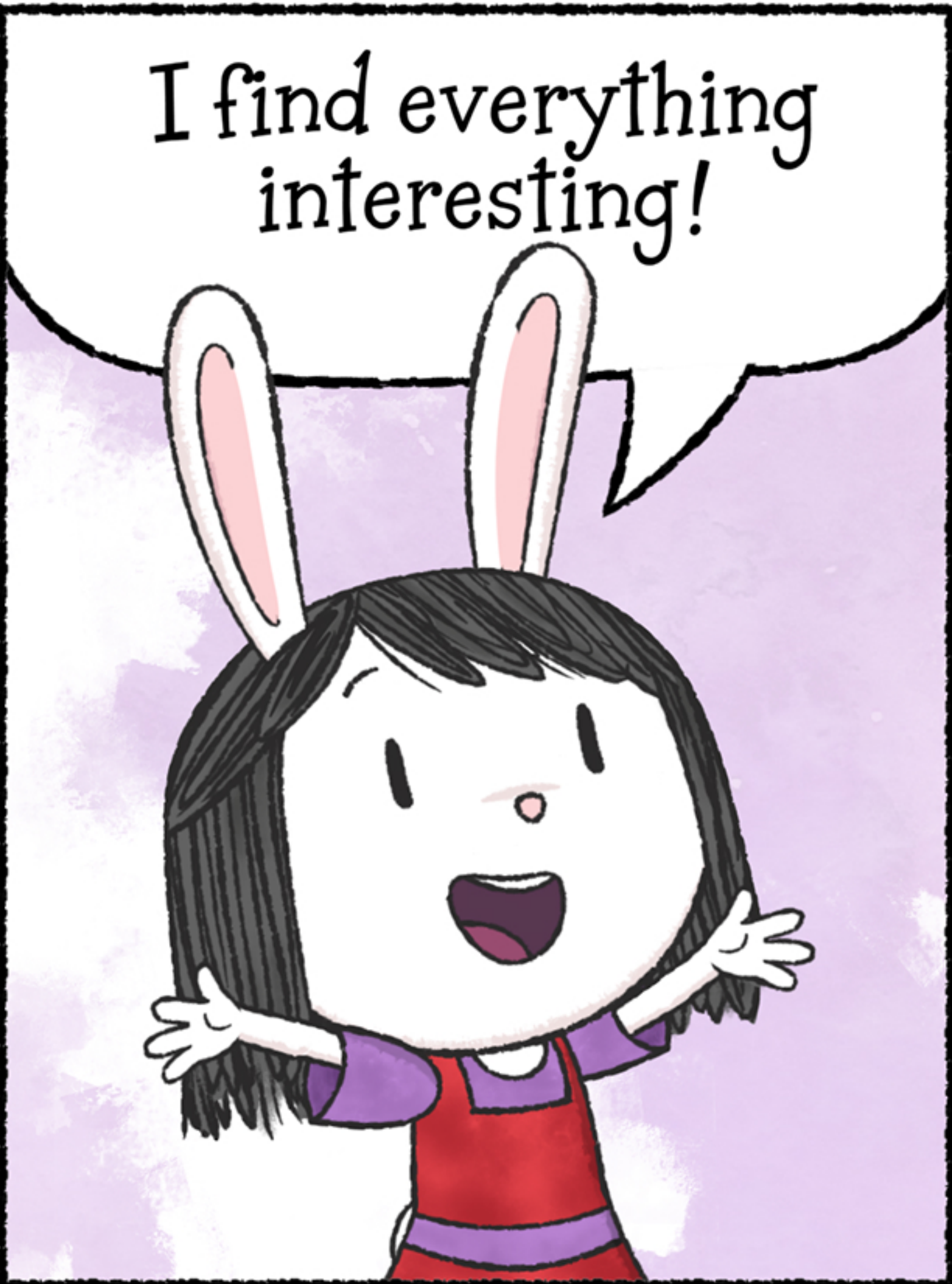




My parents got me this watch to help me stay on track. Watch this!

Time to go to school! Eat your vegetables!

Don't forget your pants!

Heh, sometimes I forget.

Want to see my favorite part of the watch?

The watch strap!

SKRRTCH!
SKRRTCH!
SKRRTCH!

That is SO interesting!

Okay class, let's get started!

GOOD MORNING, MS MOLE!

Okay, who gave the kids coffee this morning?

Okay, now where is my book?

Aha! Is this it?

No!
That's a carrot!

Heh, who said teachers don't know how to have fun?

Ms. Mole, you're so silly!

Today we're going to learn
a really fun lesson!

Are you ready?
Here we go...

Wait for it...
Wait for it...

Always leave them in
suspense.

Today's lesson is about...
Nature's Ideas!

Nature has a lot of good
ideas we can learn from,
like-

SKRRRTCH!

What was that?

Act casual...

Ahem, as I was saying.
Nature has lots of good
ideas.

SKRRRTCH!

Elinor...

Whoops.

Ms. Mole, this watch
strap is so cool!

You can open it and
close it...

It sticks together like
tape... but it's not sticky!

That is SO
interesting!

SKRRRTCH!

And look! There's a strap like that everywhere!



It helps close shoes and boots...



And backpacks and coats!



It's on everything!

I know!



But I wonder... How does it work?



How does this scratchy patch stick to the fuzzy part...



...Without being sticky?



It's a mystery!

A scratchy mystery!



Actually, Elinor, that's-



Time for recess!



Recess, yay!



Ya gotta love recess.



How does this stick together without being sticky?



I'll see if we have any books about it!



What about recess?



Look, it sticks to other things too!



The scratchy patch sticks to some things...

But it doesn't stick to other things.

Huh. That IS interesting!

It's sticky AND picky!

Well, I found some fun books...

Oof!

But none about mysterious patches that stick to things.

Hey look! I'm stuck in time!

I have an idea!

Let's try sticking this to LOTS of things...

And see what it does and doesn't stick to!

YES!

I'll get my notebook!

Okay, let's see what this does and doesn't stick to.

Rug: Yes!

Chalkboard: No.

Olive's nose: No!

Heh heh!

Okay, so the watch strap sticks to the rug and Ari's sweater...



But it doesn't stick to anything else.



Hmmm...



We could try some things outside?



Yeah!

We want to solve the mystery...



Of why this sticks so stickily!



We're gonna try this rock...



This log...

And even this frog!



When I have a question I don't know...



I look for the answers high and low!



We're gonna try it here...



And there...

And everywhere!



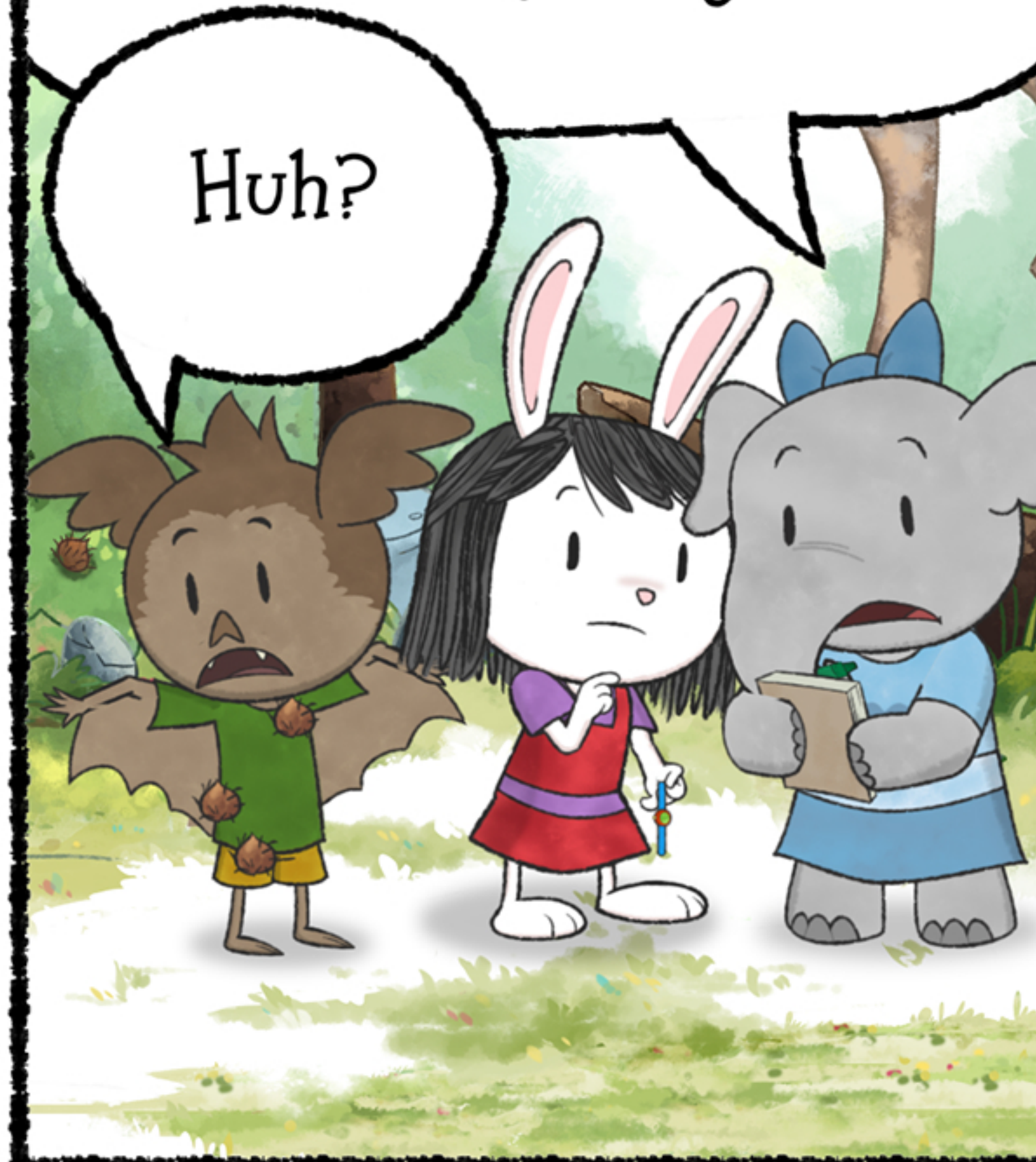
Okay, what did we learn, Olive?



Well, the watch strap sticks to sweaters and rugs...



But not anything else.



Huh?

Ack! Help!



These seeds are stuck to my shirt!



I'll help you, Ari!



Huh?



Hey!



Look! This seed sticks to Ari's shirt...



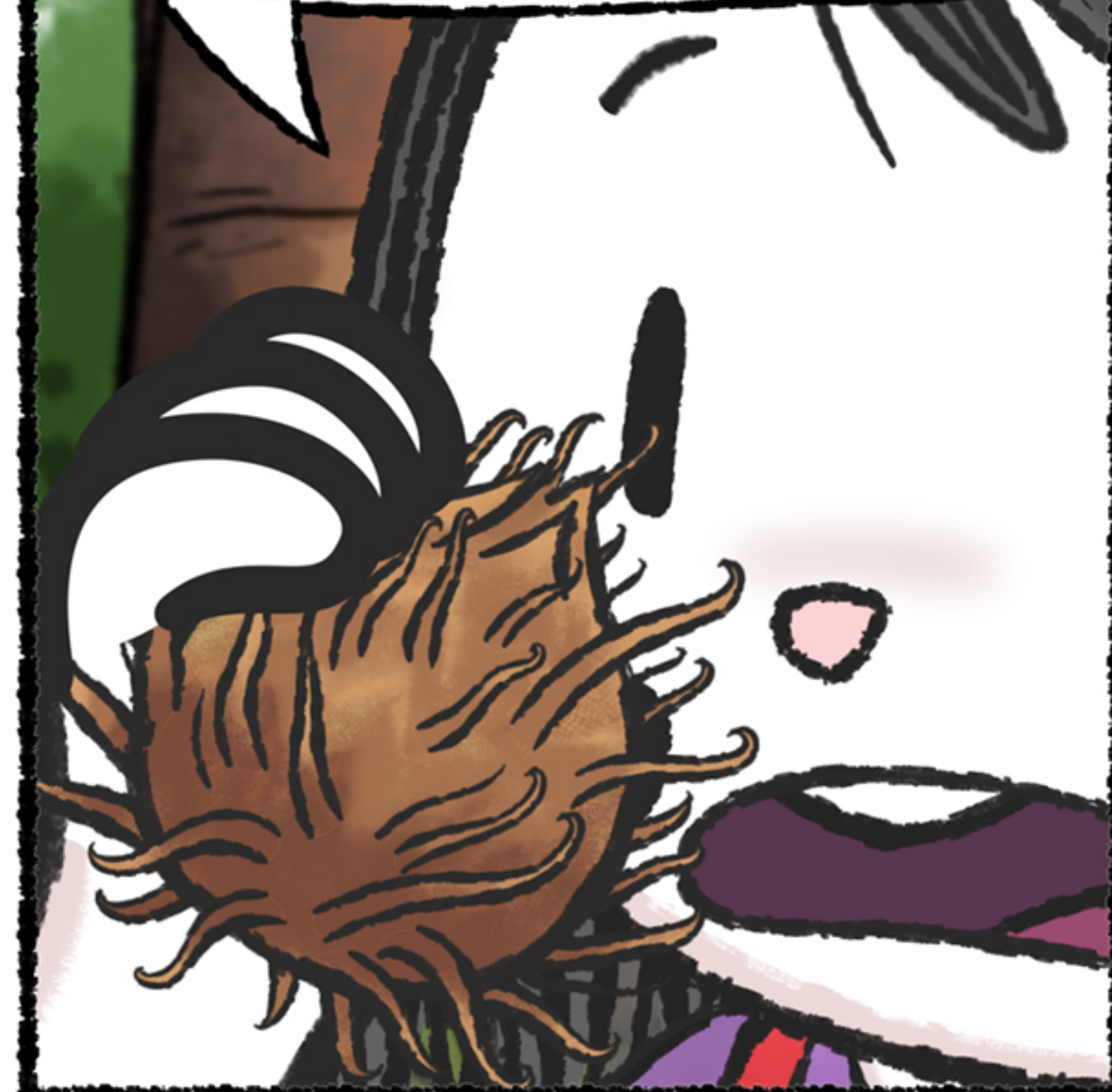
Just like the watch strap!



It even makes the same sound when you pull it!



What is this little seed?



Let's take a closer look at this seed...



Whoah, look at all those little hooks!



Is that what makes it stick to the sweater?



Whoah!



The hooks grab onto the fuzziness of the sweater...



That's how the seed sticks to the sweater!



But what about my watch strap?



We need more observations!



Let's look closer at the watch strap, too.

It also has little hooks!

They're even tinier! I hadn't seen them before!

Whoah. Okay, now I'm hooked.

That's it! That's how the watch strap works!

The little hooks on one side...

Grab the loops on the other side.

And when you pull it...

Ms. Mole! We figured it out!

The watch strap sticks together using tiny hooks!

But they only stick to things that are fuzzy and have little loops!

We solved the sticky mystery!

Oh my!

Ms. Mole, we figured it out by looking at this seed!

It also has little hooks in it! **GASP!**

Did the seed copy the idea from the strap?

Actually, the idea for the strap came from the seed! **WHOA!**

George de Mestral was an inventor who loved to walk in the woods.



One day he noticed little seeds stuck to his clothes.



He wondered if he could make the hooks himself.



And that's how hook and loop fasteners were invented!



You were right! Nature DOES have lots of good ideas!



I'm glad we went out to explore and figure it out!



Yeah! You could say...



We really stuck with it!

